

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheet" of drawings includes changes to Figure 3c. The attached "Replacement Sheet," which includes Figure 3c, replaces the original sheet including Figure 3c.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1-15 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

The Examiner objects to the Oath/Declaration as not being signed. A Combined Oath, Declaration and Power of Attorney was transmitted to the U.S. Patent Office on July 20, 2000. This is further evidenced by the Patent Office's acknowledgement of the Assignment. A copy of both are enclosed.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant includes a replacement sheet of drawings for the Examiner's approval. The replacement sheet of drawings (specifically Fig. 3c) now includes the numeral 15. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw his objection to the drawings.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph alleging them to be indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended several claims in an attempt to overcome the Examiner's §112 rejection. In light of the rejection, Applicant believes Claim 1-15 to overcome the Examiner's §112, second paragraph rejection and respectfully request withdrawal of the same.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) alleging them to be anticipated by Thomas (U.S. Patent No. 2,404,006). The Examiner alleges that Thomas discloses Applicant's invention.

Claim 1, among other elements, defines that no one component part rotates relative to any component part. Accordingly, the present jaw engagement does not happen by rotation of one element with respect to the other.

The Thomas reference cited by the Examiner fails to disclose or suggest this feature. As illustrated in Thomas, column 2, lines 28-35, it states:

It will be clear from the latter that rotation of the body 11 relative to the shank 13 will drive the screw 22 causing it to move axially of the shank. This movement of the screw actuates the jaws in the holes 16 by virtue of the engagement of the edges of the slots 24 in the flange 23 with the sides of the slots 26 in the jaws.

Thus, Thomas requires rotation of one element with respect to the other in order to work. Clearly, Thomas does not disclose Applicant's invention.

The Examiner has rejects Claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by GB 21999776.

The '776 application, like Thomas, illustrates rotation. This is illustrated in Figure 2 where the collar 40 moves along the threads 26 to move the jaw 16. Accordingly, the '776 application fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's invention.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35. U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) alleging them to be unpatentable over Schliep (U.S. Patent No. 4,366,732) in view of Thomas. The Examiner alleges this combination discloses Applicants' invention.

As mentioned above, Applicant's Claim 1 does not have component parts which rotate relative to one another in order to engage the jaws.

The Schliep reference illustrates an adjustable nut 40 which is rotated along the shank 16 in order to move the jaws with respect to one another. This is unlike Applicant's invention. The combination with Thomas, which also shows rotation as pointed above, fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's invention.

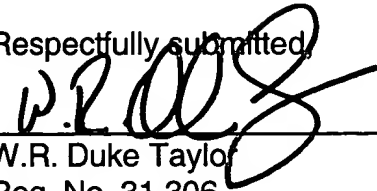
Accordingly, Applicant believes Claim 1-11 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

Additionally, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 12-15 are allowable if rewritten to overcome the §112 rejection as well as to include the limitations of any base claims and any intervening claims.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,



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